

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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**In American Samoa, obtaining an initial teaching license involves several specific steps and requirements. Here's an overview of what is generally required:**

### 1. Educational Requirements

- **Bachelor's Degree:** You must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
- **Teacher Preparation Program:** Completion of an accredited teacher preparation program that includes coursework in pedagogy and a student teaching experience is required.

### 2. Testing Requirements

- **Exams:** American Samoa may require passing specific exams, such as the Praxis series or other state-specific tests. Details on the exact tests required should be verified with the American Samoa Department of Education.

### 3. Application Process

- **Submit Application:** You must apply for a teaching license through the American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE). This typically involves completing an application form and providing necessary documentation.
- **Documentation:** Provide transcripts, proof of completion of your teacher preparation program, and any required test scores.
- **Application Fee:** Pay any application fees associated with the licensing process.

### 4. Background Checks

- **Criminal Background Check:** You must undergo a criminal background check, which may include fingerprinting and other screenings as required by the ASDOE.

### 5. Professional Experience

- **Teaching Experience:** While not always mandatory for an initial license, having prior teaching experience can be beneficial. Some positions may require a certain amount of classroom experience.

### 6. Induction and Professional Development

- **Induction Program:** New teachers may need to participate in an induction program or complete professional development activities during the early years of their teaching career.

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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- **Continuing Education:** Ongoing professional development is often required to maintain and renew your teaching license.

### 7. Renewal of Certification

- **Renewal Process:** The initial teaching license is typically valid for a specific period. To renew your license, you will need to complete any required continuing education or professional development activities and submit a renewal application.

### Final Notes

Requirements can vary, so it's important to consult the American Samoa Department of Education or their website for the most accurate and up-to-date information on obtaining an initial teaching license. They can provide specific details on the process, testing requirements, and any additional steps needed for licensure.

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**American Samoa generally evaluates out-of-state teaching licenses, including those from Mississippi, through a process of reciprocity or equivalency. However, specific requirements and procedures can vary. Here's what you need to know:**

### 1. License Transfer and Reciprocity

- **License Evaluation:** American Samoa will assess whether your Mississippi teaching license meets their requirements for teaching in American Samoa. This assessment typically includes reviewing your educational credentials, teaching experience, and any licensure examinations you have passed.

### 2. Additional Requirements

- **Educational Verification:** Ensure that your educational background, including your degree and teacher preparation program, aligns with the requirements of American Samoa.
- **Testing Requirements:** You may need to provide proof of passing relevant teaching exams, such as the Praxis series or other state-specific tests, if they differ from those required in Mississippi.
- **Background Checks:**
  - **Criminal Background Check:** You will need to undergo a criminal background check, including fingerprinting and other screenings as required by American Samoa.

# AMERICAN SAMOA

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### 3. Application Process

- **Submit Documentation:** Apply through the American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) and provide all necessary documentation, including:
  - Your Mississippi teaching license
  - Transcripts
  - Proof of completion of a teacher preparation program
  - Test scores
- **Application Fee:** Pay any applicable application fees.

### 4. Induction and Professional Development

- **Induction Program:** You may need to participate in an induction program or complete professional development activities as part of your initial licensure or while working in American Samoa.
- **Continuing Education:** Ongoing professional development may be required to maintain and renew your teaching license.

### Final Notes

The specific requirements for transferring a teaching license from Mississippi to American Samoa can vary based on individual circumstances and the policies of the American Samoa Department of Education. For the most accurate and detailed information, contact the ASDOE directly or visit their website. They can provide guidance on the process, additional requirements, and any necessary steps to complete your licensure in American Samoa.

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**American Samoa does offer alternative routes to teacher certification for individuals who may not have completed a traditional teacher preparation program but hold a bachelor's degree or have relevant experience. Here's an overview of the alternative pathways generally available:**

### 1. Alternative Certification Programs

- **Overview:** These programs allow individuals with a bachelor's degree and relevant experience to obtain a teaching license while working as teachers. They are designed for career changers or individuals with expertise in specific subject areas.
- **Program Components:**
  - **On-the-Job Training:** Candidates teach under a provisional or alternative license while completing required coursework and training.
  - **Coursework:** Includes education-related coursework in areas such as pedagogy, classroom management, and educational law.

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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- **Mentorship:** Candidates may receive guidance and support from experienced educators during their initial years of teaching.

### 2. Emergency Licensure

- **Overview:** This route is for individuals who are hired by a school district in a critical shortage area or subject and are working towards certification while teaching.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must have a bachelor's degree and be employed by a school in American Samoa.
- **Certification Process:**
  - Allows you to teach while completing necessary coursework and meeting other certification requirements.

### 3. Adjunct Licensure

- **Overview:** This option is for individuals with significant professional experience or expertise in a specific field who wish to teach part-time while working towards full certification.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must have a bachelor's degree and considerable experience or expertise in the subject area.
- **Certification Process:**
  - Typically involves completing additional coursework and meeting state-specific certification requirements.

### 4. Professional Experience-Based Certification

- **Overview:** In some cases, candidates with extensive professional experience related to their subject area may be able to obtain certification based on their expertise and experience.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must demonstrate substantial experience or achievement in the relevant field.
- **Certification Process:**
  - Involves a review of your professional background and possibly passing relevant examinations or completing additional coursework.

# AMERICAN SAMOA

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### 5. Pathways for Advanced Degrees or National Certification

- **Overview:** For those who have achieved advanced degrees or national certifications, American Samoa may offer an expedited route to certification based on these credentials.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must hold advanced degrees or national certifications and meet any additional state requirements.

### Final Notes

The specific requirements and availability of alternative certification routes in American Samoa can vary. It's essential to consult with the American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) for the most accurate and detailed information on alternative certification pathways, including eligibility criteria, application procedures, and required coursework or exams.

### Sources

OpenAI CHAT/GPT

National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification – NASDTEC

American Samoa Department of Education: <https://www.amsamoadoe.com/>

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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**To obtain an initial teacher license in Washington, D.C. (District of Columbia), you must meet specific educational, examination, and professional requirements. Here's a detailed breakdown of the process:**

### 1. Educational Requirements:

- **Bachelor's Degree:** You must hold at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution. The degree can be in education or a specific subject area related to the content you wish to teach.
- **Teacher Preparation Program:** Completion of a state-approved teacher preparation program is required. This program includes coursework in pedagogy, subject-specific instruction, and a student teaching component.

### 2. Certification Examinations:

- **Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators:** This set of exams assesses your basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. It is a requirement unless you meet certain exemption criteria (e.g., having high scores on the SAT, ACT, or GRE).
- **Praxis Subject Assessments:** You must pass the Praxis Subject Assessments (formerly known as Praxis II) in the specific subject area you plan to teach. These exams evaluate your knowledge and instructional skills in that subject.
- **Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT):** Depending on the grade level you wish to teach, you may need to pass the Praxis PLT exam, which tests your understanding of instructional practices and pedagogy.

### 3. Background Check:

- **Criminal Background Check:** You must complete and pass a criminal background check, including fingerprinting, as part of the licensure process. This is to ensure the safety of students.

### 4. Application Process:

- **Online Application:** Submit your application for licensure through the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) online portal.
- **Documentation:** Along with your application, you must submit:
  - Official transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended.
  - Verification of completed teacher preparation program (if not indicated on your transcript).
  - Passing Praxis test scores.
  - Proof of student teaching or equivalent supervised teaching experience.

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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- **Application Fee:** There is a non-refundable application fee that must be paid during the submission process.

### 5. Professional Experience:

- **Student Teaching:** Completion of a student teaching internship is typically required as part of your teacher preparation program. This involves hands-on teaching experience under the supervision of a licensed educator.
- **Alternative Experience:** If you have prior teaching experience or are pursuing an alternative route to certification, you may need to provide evidence of your experience.

### 6. Alternative Routes to Licensure:

- **DC Teaching Fellows, Teach For America, or Other Programs:** If you haven't completed a traditional teacher preparation program, D.C. offers alternative pathways to licensure through programs like DC Teaching Fellows or Teach For America. These programs allow you to teach while completing certification requirements.
- **Provisional License:** You may be eligible for a provisional license, which allows you to teach while completing certain requirements (such as passing exams or additional coursework).

### 7. Reciprocity:

- **Out-of-State Licenses:** If you hold a valid teaching license from another state, you may qualify for licensure through reciprocity. However, you might still need to meet certain D.C. requirements, such as passing the required exams or completing additional professional development.

### 8. Professional Development:

- **Ongoing Requirements:** To maintain and renew your teaching license, you must participate in ongoing professional development activities. D.C. has specific requirements for continuing education that must be met to keep your license current.

### 9. License Renewal:

- **Initial License Validity:** The initial teacher license in D.C. is typically valid for four years. To renew your license, you must complete the required professional development and submit a renewal application before your initial license expires.

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### Final Steps:

For the most accurate and current information, it's advisable to visit the D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) website or contact their office directly. Licensing requirements can be updated, so it's essential to verify the details with the official licensing body.

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**Washington, D.C. (District of Columbia) may accept a Mississippi teaching license through a process called reciprocity, which allows teachers from other states to obtain licensure in D.C. However, there are specific requirements and steps involved in this process.**

### 1. Reciprocity for Out-of-State Licenses:

- **Recognition of Mississippi License:** D.C. does recognize teaching licenses from other states, including Mississippi, under certain conditions. You can apply for a D.C. teaching license if you hold a valid, standard, or professional teaching license from Mississippi.
- **Equivalent License:** The license you receive in D.C. will be equivalent to the one you hold in Mississippi, provided you meet D.C.'s requirements.

### 2. Application Process:

- **Submit an Application:** You need to apply for a D.C. teaching license through the D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) online portal.
- **Documentation:** As part of the application, you must submit:
  - A copy of your valid Mississippi teaching license.
  - Official transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended.
  - Verification of your teaching experience (if applicable).
  - Proof of passing scores on the required Mississippi licensure exams.
- **Application Fee:** You must pay the non-refundable application fee when submitting your application.

### 3. Examination Requirements:

- **Praxis Exams:** If you passed Praxis exams as part of your licensure process in Mississippi, those scores might be accepted in D.C. However, if your Mississippi license was obtained without taking Praxis exams or if D.C. requires different or additional exams, you may need to take those specific exams.
- **Additional Exams:** In some cases, D.C. might require you to take additional exams or assessments, particularly if your Mississippi licensure did not require certain tests.



# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### 4. Background Check:

- **Criminal Background Check:** You will need to undergo and pass a new criminal background check, including fingerprinting, as part of the licensure process in D.C., even if you have already completed one in Mississippi.

### 5. Professional Development:

- **Ongoing Requirements:** D.C. requires licensed teachers to participate in ongoing professional development to maintain and renew their teaching licenses. If you are granted a D.C. license, you will need to meet these continuing education requirements.

### 6. Provisional License:

- **Temporary Licensure:** If you meet most of the requirements but still need to complete additional exams or coursework, D.C. may issue a provisional or temporary license that allows you to teach while you complete the remaining requirements.

### Final Steps:

To ensure that you meet all the requirements and understand the process fully, it is recommended that you contact the D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) directly or visit their official website. This will give you the most accurate and up-to-date information, as licensing requirements and processes can change.

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**Washington, D.C. (District of Columbia) offers alternative routes to teacher certification for individuals who have not completed a traditional teacher preparation program but wish to become licensed teachers. These alternative pathways are designed to attract individuals with strong content knowledge and a desire to transition into teaching.**

### Key Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification in D.C.:

#### *1. DC Teacher Residency Programs:*

- **Overview:** These programs are designed for individuals who want to gain hands-on experience while earning their teaching certification. Participants work as residents in schools under the guidance of experienced mentor teachers while completing coursework toward certification.
- **DC Teaching Fellows:** This is a specific program that recruits professionals and recent college graduates to teach in high-need subject areas and schools. Fellows typically teach

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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full-time while completing certification requirements through evening and weekend coursework.

- **Teach For America (TFA):** TFA is a national program with a presence in D.C. that places recent college graduates and professionals in high-need schools. Corps members teach full-time while completing certification coursework.

### *2. Professional Certification (Option I):*

- **Eligibility:** This route is designed for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree (or higher) and have a background in a content area related to the subject they wish to teach.
- **Requirements:** Candidates must enroll in and complete an approved alternative teacher certification program. These programs often include pedagogy coursework and a supervised teaching internship.
- **Programs:** Several universities and organizations in D.C. offer approved alternative certification programs that allow candidates to teach while completing the necessary coursework and exams.

### *3. Post-Baccalaureate Program (Option II):*

- **Overview:** Individuals with a bachelor's degree in a non-education field can enroll in a post-baccalaureate teacher preparation program that is approved by OSSE. These programs provide the necessary pedagogical training and supervised teaching experience required for certification.

### *4. Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certification:*

- **Overview:** D.C. offers alternative certification specifically for individuals interested in teaching Career and Technical Education (CTE) subjects. Candidates with relevant industry experience and expertise can transition into teaching through specialized certification pathways.
- **Requirements:** CTE certification typically requires industry credentials, experience, and completion of a teacher preparation program focused on CTE pedagogy.

### **General Requirements for Alternative Routes:**

- **Educational Background:** A bachelor's degree in a relevant subject area is generally required.
- **Pedagogical Training:** Alternative route programs include coursework in pedagogy, classroom management, and instructional strategies.

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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- **Supervised Teaching:** Candidates must complete a period of supervised teaching, often while working as a full-time teacher under a provisional license.
- **Praxis Exams:** Candidates are usually required to pass the Praxis Core exams and relevant Praxis Subject Assessments.
- **Mentorship:** Participants often receive ongoing mentorship and support from experienced educators throughout the program.

### Provisional Licensure:

- **Provisional License:** Candidates in alternative route programs are typically issued a provisional license, allowing them to teach while completing program requirements. Once all requirements are met, candidates can apply for full licensure.

### Final Steps:

For more information and to explore specific programs, visit the D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) website or contact their office directly. They can provide guidance on approved alternative certification programs, application procedures, and any recent changes to the requirements.

### Sources

OpenAI CHAT/GPT

National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification – NASDTEC

Office of the State Superintendent of Education: [Office of the State Superintendent of Education | osse \(dc.gov\)](https://osse.dc.gov)

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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To obtain an initial teaching license in Guam, you need to meet several requirements, which generally include educational qualifications, testing, application procedures, and background checks. Here's a detailed overview of the process:

### 1. Educational Requirements

- **Bachelor's Degree:** You must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
- **Teacher Preparation Program:** Completion of a state-approved or accredited teacher preparation program is required. This program should include coursework in pedagogy and a student teaching experience.

### 2. Testing Requirements

- **Exams:** Guam requires passing specific exams to demonstrate your knowledge and skills. This usually includes:
  - **Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (CORE):** Tests in reading, writing, and mathematics.
  - **Praxis Subject Assessments:** Tests related to the specific subject area or grade level you wish to teach.
- **Note:** Be sure to verify the exact exams required with the Guam Department of Education, as requirements may change.

### 3. Application Process

- **Submit Application:** Apply for certification through the Guam Department of Education (GDOE). This typically involves completing an application form and providing necessary documentation.
- **Documentation:** You will need to provide:
  - Proof of your degree
  - Transcripts
  - Proof of completion of a teacher preparation program
  - Test scores
- **Application Fee:** Pay any applicable application fees.

### 4. Background Checks

- **Criminal Background Check:** You must undergo a criminal background check, which includes:
  - **Guam State Criminal Background Check**
  - **FBI Criminal History Report** (including fingerprinting)
  - **Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Check** (if applicable)

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### 5. Professional Experience

- **Student Teaching Experience:** Completion of a student teaching or practicum experience is typically required as part of your teacher preparation program.

### 6. Induction and Professional Development

- **Induction Program:** New teachers may be required to participate in an induction program or complete professional development activities during their initial years of teaching.
- **Continuing Education:** Ongoing professional development is required to maintain and renew your teaching license.

### 7. Renewal of Certification

- **Renewal Process:** The initial license is typically valid for a specific period, often 3-5 years. To renew your license, you will need to complete required continuing education or professional development activities and submit a renewal application.

### Final Notes

The specific requirements and processes can vary, so it's essential to consult the Guam Department of Education for the most accurate and up-to-date information. They can provide detailed guidance on the certification process, required exams, and any additional steps you need to take to obtain an initial teaching license in Guam.

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**Guam generally accepts out-of-state teacher licenses, including those from Mississippi, through a process of reciprocity or equivalency. However, there may be additional requirements and steps involved. Here's an overview:**

#### 1. License Transfer and Reciprocity

- **License Evaluation:** Guam will evaluate your Mississippi teacher license to determine if it meets their requirements. This evaluation typically involves reviewing your educational background, teaching experience, and any licensure exams you have passed.

#### 2. Additional Requirements

- **Educational Verification:** Ensure that your educational qualifications, such as your degree and teacher preparation program, align with Guam's requirements.
- **Testing Requirements:**

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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- **Exams:** You may need to provide proof of passing relevant exams, such as the Praxis Core and Praxis Subject Assessments. Verify with the Guam Department of Education if any additional exams are required or if your Mississippi exam scores are acceptable.

- **Background Checks:**

- **Criminal Background Check:** You will need to complete new background checks in Guam, including:
  - **Guam State Criminal Background Check**
  - **FBI Criminal History Report** (including fingerprinting)
  - **Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Check** (if applicable)

### 3. Application Process

- **Submit Documentation:** Apply for certification through the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) and provide:
  - Your Mississippi teacher license
  - Transcripts and proof of your educational qualifications
  - Proof of completion of a teacher preparation program
  - Test scores (if applicable)
- **Application Fee:** Pay any required application fees.

### 4. Provisional or Conditional Certification

- **Provisional License:** If there are differences between Mississippi's and Guam's requirements, you may be issued a provisional or conditional license. This allows you to start teaching while completing any additional requirements.

### 5. Professional Development

- **Induction and Professional Development:** New teachers may need to participate in an induction program or complete professional development during their initial years of service.
- **Continuing Education:** Ongoing professional development is required to maintain and renew your teaching license.

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### Final Notes

The specific requirements for transferring a teaching license from Mississippi to Guam can vary based on individual circumstances and the Guam Department of Education's policies. For the most accurate and detailed information, contact the GDOE directly or visit their website. They can provide guidance on the process, additional requirements, and necessary steps to complete your licensure in Guam.

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**Guam offers alternative routes to teacher certification for individuals who may not have completed a traditional teacher preparation program but have relevant experience or qualifications. Here's an overview of the alternative certification pathways typically available:**

### 1. Alternative Certification Programs

- **Overview:** These programs allow individuals with a bachelor's degree and relevant professional experience to become certified teachers while working in the classroom. The programs are designed for career changers or individuals with expertise in specific subject areas.
- **Program Components:**
  - **On-the-Job Training:** Candidates work as teachers under a provisional or alternative license while completing required coursework and training.
  - **Coursework:** Includes education-related coursework in pedagogy, classroom management, and educational law.
  - **Mentorship:** Candidates often receive support and guidance from experienced educators during their initial teaching years.

### 2. Emergency Licensure

- **Overview:** This route is for individuals who are hired by schools in areas with a critical shortage of teachers and who are working towards certification while teaching.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must have a bachelor's degree and be employed by a school in Guam.
- **Certification Process:**
  - Allows you to start teaching while completing required coursework and meeting other certification requirements.

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### 3. Adjunct Licensure

- **Overview:** This option is available for individuals with significant professional experience or expertise in a specific field who wish to teach part-time while working towards full certification.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must have a bachelor's degree and considerable experience or expertise in the subject area.
- **Certification Process:**
  - Typically involves completing additional coursework and meeting state-specific certification requirements.

### 4. Professional Experience-Based Certification

- **Overview:** In some cases, candidates with substantial professional experience related to their subject area may be able to obtain certification based on their expertise and experience.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must demonstrate substantial experience or achievement in the relevant field.
- **Certification Process:**
  - Involves a review of your professional background and possibly passing relevant examinations or completing additional coursework.

### 5. Pathways for Advanced Degrees or National Certification

- **Overview:** For those who hold advanced degrees or national certifications, Guam may offer an expedited route to certification based on these credentials.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must hold advanced degrees or national certifications and meet any additional state requirements.



# GUAM

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### Final Notes

The specific requirements and availability of alternative certification routes in Guam can vary. It's essential to consult the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) for the most accurate and up-to-date information on alternative certification pathways. They can provide detailed guidance on eligibility, program components, and the application process for alternative routes to teacher certification.

### Sources

OpenAI CHAT/GPT

National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification – NASDTEC

Guam Department of Education: <https://www.gdoe.net/>

# NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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To obtain an initial teacher license in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), you must meet several requirements, which generally include educational qualifications, testing, and application procedures. Here's an overview of the process:

### 1. Educational Requirements

- **Bachelor's Degree:** You must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
- **Teacher Preparation Program:** Completion of a state-approved or accredited teacher preparation program is required. This program should include coursework in pedagogy and a student teaching experience.

### 2. Testing Requirements

- **Exams:** The Northern Mariana Islands may require passing specific exams to demonstrate your knowledge and skills. This typically includes:
  - **Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (CORE):** Tests in reading, writing, and mathematics.
  - **Praxis Subject Assessments:** Tests related to the specific subject area or grade level you wish to teach.
- **Note:** Confirm the exact exams required with the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Education (NMI DOE), as requirements may change.

### 3. Application Process

- **Submit Application:** Apply for certification through the NMI Department of Education (NMI DOE). This generally involves completing an application form and providing necessary documentation.
- **Documentation:** You will need to provide:
  - Proof of your degree
  - Transcripts
  - Proof of completion of a teacher preparation program
  - Test scores
- **Application Fee:** Pay any applicable application fees.

### 4. Background Checks

- **Criminal Background Check:** You must undergo a criminal background check, which includes:
  - **NMI State Criminal Background Check**
  - **FBI Criminal History Report** (including fingerprinting)
  - **Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Check** (if applicable)

# NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### 5. Professional Experience

- **Student Teaching Experience:** Completion of a student teaching or practicum experience is typically required as part of your teacher preparation program.

### 6. Induction and Professional Development

- **Induction Program:** New teachers may be required to participate in an induction program or complete professional development activities during their initial years of teaching.
- **Continuing Education:** Ongoing professional development is required to maintain and renew your teaching license.

### 7. Renewal of Certification

- **Renewal Process:** The initial license is typically valid for a specific period, often 3-5 years. To renew your license, you will need to complete required continuing education or professional development activities and submit a renewal application.

### Final Notes

The specific requirements and processes for obtaining a teaching license in the Northern Mariana Islands can vary. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, contact the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Education (NMI DOE) directly or visit their website. They can provide detailed guidance on certification requirements, application procedures, and any additional steps needed.

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**The Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) generally evaluates out-of-state teacher licenses, including those from Mississippi, through a process of reciprocity or equivalency. Here's an overview of what you might need to consider if you hold a Mississippi Teacher License and wish to obtain certification in NMI:**

#### 1. License Transfer and Reciprocity

- **License Evaluation:** NMI will assess whether your Mississippi Teacher License meets their requirements. This includes reviewing your educational qualifications, teaching experience, and any licensure exams you have passed.

# NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### 2. Additional Requirements

- **Educational Verification:** Ensure that your educational qualifications, such as your degree and teacher preparation program, meet NMI's standards.
- **Testing Requirements:**
  - **Exams:** You may need to provide proof of passing relevant exams, such as the Praxis Core and Praxis Subject Assessments. Verify with the NMI Department of Education (NMI DOE) if additional exams are required or if your Mississippi exam scores are acceptable.
- **Background Checks:**
  - **Criminal Background Check:** You will need to complete new background checks in NMI, including:
    - **NMI State Criminal Background Check**
    - **FBI Criminal History Report** (including fingerprinting)
    - **Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Check** (if applicable)

### 3. Application Process

- **Submit Documentation:** Apply for certification through the NMI Department of Education (NMI DOE) and provide:
  - Your Mississippi Teacher License
  - Transcripts and proof of your educational qualifications
  - Proof of completion of a teacher preparation program
  - Test scores (if applicable)
- **Application Fee:** Pay any required application fees.

### 4. Provisional or Conditional Certification

- **Provisional License:** If there are differences between Mississippi's and NMI's requirements, you might be issued a provisional or conditional license. This allows you to begin teaching while completing any additional requirements.

### 5. Professional Development

- **Induction and Professional Development:** New teachers may need to participate in an induction program or complete professional development during their initial years of service.
- **Continuing Education:** Ongoing professional development is required to maintain and renew your teaching license.

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### Final Notes

The specific requirements for transferring a teaching license from Mississippi to NMI can vary based on individual circumstances and the NMI Department of Education's policies. For the most accurate and detailed information, it's best to contact the NMI DOE directly or visit their website. They can provide guidance on the process, additional requirements, and necessary steps to complete your licensure in the Northern Mariana Islands.

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**The Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) offers alternative routes to teacher certification for individuals who may not have completed a traditional teacher preparation program but have relevant experience or qualifications. Here's an overview of the alternative certification pathways typically available:**

### 1. Alternative Certification Programs

- **Overview:** These programs allow individuals with a bachelor's degree and relevant professional experience to become certified teachers while working in the classroom. The programs are designed for career changers or individuals with expertise in specific subject areas.
- **Program Components:**
  - **On-the-Job Training:** Candidates work as teachers under a provisional or alternative license while completing required coursework and training.
  - **Coursework:** Includes education-related coursework in pedagogy, classroom management, and educational law.
  - **Mentorship:** Candidates often receive support and guidance from experienced educators during their initial teaching years.

### 2. Emergency Licensure

- **Overview:** This route is for individuals hired by schools in areas with a critical shortage of teachers and who are working towards certification while teaching.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must have a bachelor's degree and be employed by a school in NMI.
- **Certification Process:**
  - Allows you to start teaching while completing required coursework and meeting other certification requirements.

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

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### 3. Adjunct Licensure

- **Overview:** This option is available for individuals with significant professional experience or expertise in a specific field who wish to teach part-time while working towards full certification.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must have a bachelor's degree and considerable experience or expertise in the subject area.
- **Certification Process:**
  - Typically involves completing additional coursework and meeting state-specific certification requirements.

### 4. Professional Experience-Based Certification

- **Overview:** In some cases, candidates with substantial professional experience related to their subject area may be able to obtain certification based on their expertise and experience.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must demonstrate substantial experience or achievement in the relevant field.
- **Certification Process:**
  - Involves a review of your professional background and possibly passing relevant examinations or completing additional coursework.

### 5. Pathways for Advanced Degrees or National Certification

- **Overview:** For those who hold advanced degrees or national certifications, NMI may offer an expedited route to certification based on these credentials.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must hold advanced degrees or national certifications and meet any additional state requirements.

# NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

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### Final Notes

The specific requirements and availability of alternative certification routes in NMI can vary. It's essential to consult the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Education (NMI DOE) for the most accurate and up-to-date information on alternative certification pathways. They can provide detailed guidance on eligibility, program components, and the application process for alternative routes to teacher certification.

### Sources

OpenAI CHAT/GPT

National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification – NASDTEC  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School System:

<https://www.cnmipss.org/>

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

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To obtain an initial teacher license in Puerto Rico, you need to meet several specific requirements. Here's a detailed overview of the process:

### 1. Educational Requirements

- **Bachelor's Degree:** You must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
- **Teacher Preparation Program:** Completion of a state-approved or accredited teacher preparation program is required. This program should include coursework in pedagogy and a student teaching experience.

### 2. Testing Requirements

- **Exams:** Puerto Rico requires passing specific exams to demonstrate your knowledge and skills. This typically includes:
  - **PRAXIS Core Academic Skills for Educators (CORE):** Tests in reading, writing, and mathematics.
  - **PRAXIS Subject Assessments:** Tests related to the specific subject area or grade level you wish to teach.
- **Spanish Proficiency:** Since instruction in Puerto Rico is often in Spanish, you may need to demonstrate proficiency in Spanish.

### 3. Application Process

- **Submit Application:** Apply for certification through the Puerto Rico Department of Education (PRDOE). This generally involves completing an application form and providing necessary documentation.
- **Documentation:** You will need to submit:
  - Proof of your degree
  - Transcripts
  - Proof of completion of a teacher preparation program
  - Test scores (if applicable)
- **Application Fee:** Pay any applicable application fees.

### 4. Background Checks

- **Criminal Background Check:** You must undergo a criminal background check, which includes:
  - **Puerto Rico State Criminal Background Check**
  - **FBI Criminal History Report** (including fingerprinting)

### 5. Professional Experience



## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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- **Student Teaching Experience:** Completion of a student teaching or practicum experience is typically required as part of your teacher preparation program.

### 6. Induction and Professional Development

- **Induction Program:** New teachers may be required to participate in an induction program or complete professional development activities during their initial years of teaching.
- **Continuing Education:** Ongoing professional development is required to maintain and renew your teaching license.

### 7. Renewal of Certification

- **Renewal Process:** The initial license is typically valid for a specific period, often 3-5 years. To renew your license, you will need to complete required continuing education or professional development activities and submit a renewal application.

### Final Notes

The specific requirements and processes for obtaining a teaching license in Puerto Rico can vary. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, contact the Puerto Rico Department of Education (PRDOE) directly or visit their website. They can provide detailed guidance on certification requirements, application procedures, and any additional steps needed.

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**Puerto Rico generally evaluates out-of-state teacher licenses, including those from Mississippi, through a process of reciprocity or equivalency. Here's what you need to know if you hold a Mississippi Teacher License and wish to obtain certification in Puerto Rico:**

### 1. License Transfer and Reciprocity

- **License Evaluation:** Puerto Rico will assess whether your Mississippi Teacher License meets their requirements. This typically involves reviewing your educational qualifications, teaching experience, and any licensure exams you have completed.

### 2. Additional Requirements

- **Educational Verification:** Ensure that your educational qualifications, such as your degree and teacher preparation program, align with Puerto Rico's standards.
- **Testing Requirements:**
  - **Exams:** You may need to provide proof of passing relevant exams, such as the PRAXIS Core and PRAXIS Subject Assessments. Confirm with the Puerto Rico

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

Department of Education (PRDOE) whether your Mississippi test scores are acceptable or if additional exams are required.

- **Spanish Proficiency:** Since instruction in Puerto Rico is often in Spanish, you may need to demonstrate proficiency in Spanish, depending on the language requirements for your specific teaching position.
- **Background Checks:**
  - **Criminal Background Check:** You will need to complete new background checks in Puerto Rico, including:
    - **Puerto Rico State Criminal Background Check**
    - **FBI Criminal History Report** (including fingerprinting)

### 3. Application Process

- **Submit Documentation:** Apply for certification through the Puerto Rico Department of Education (PRDOE) and provide:
  - Your Mississippi Teacher License
  - Transcripts and proof of your educational qualifications
  - Proof of completion of a teacher preparation program
  - Test scores (if applicable)
- **Application Fee:** Pay any required application fees.

### 4. Provisional or Conditional Certification

- **Provisional License:** If there are differences between Mississippi's and Puerto Rico's requirements, you might be issued a provisional or conditional license. This allows you to begin teaching while completing any additional requirements.

### 5. Professional Development

- **Induction and Professional Development:** New teachers may need to participate in an induction program or complete professional development activities during their initial years of service.
- **Continuing Education:** Ongoing professional development is typically required to maintain and renew your license.

### Final Notes

The specific requirements for transferring a teaching license from Mississippi to Puerto Rico can vary based on individual circumstances and the PRDOE's policies. For the most accurate and detailed information, contact the Puerto Rico Department of Education (PRDOE) directly or visit

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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their website. They can provide guidance on the process, additional requirements, and necessary steps to complete your licensure in Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico offers alternative routes to teacher certification for individuals who may not have completed a traditional teacher preparation program but have relevant experience or qualifications. Here's an overview of the alternative certification pathways available:

### 1. Alternative Certification Programs

- **Overview:** These programs are designed for individuals with a bachelor's degree and relevant professional experience who want to become certified teachers while working in the classroom. They are typically geared towards career changers or individuals with expertise in specific subject areas.
- **Program Components:**
  - **On-the-Job Training:** Candidates work as teachers under a provisional or alternative license while completing required coursework and training.
  - **Coursework:** Includes education-related coursework in pedagogy, classroom management, and educational law.
  - **Mentorship:** Candidates often receive support and guidance from experienced educators during their initial teaching years.

### 2. Emergency Certification

- **Overview:** This route is available for individuals who are hired by schools in areas with a critical shortage of teachers and who are working towards certification while teaching.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must have a bachelor's degree and be employed by a school in Puerto Rico.
- **Certification Process:**
  - Allows you to start teaching while completing required coursework and meeting other certification requirements.

### 3. Adjunct Certification

- **Overview:** This option is available for individuals with significant professional experience or expertise in a specific field who wish to teach part-time while working towards full certification.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must have a bachelor's degree and considerable experience or expertise in the subject area.
- **Certification Process:**

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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- Typically involves completing additional coursework and meeting state-specific certification requirements.

### 4. Professional Experience-Based Certification

- **Overview:** In some cases, candidates with substantial professional experience related to their subject area may be able to obtain certification based on their expertise and experience.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must demonstrate substantial experience or achievement in the relevant field.
- **Certification Process:**
  - Involves a review of your professional background and possibly passing relevant examinations or completing additional coursework.

### 5. Pathways for Advanced Degrees or National Certification

- **Overview:** For those who hold advanced degrees or national certifications, Puerto Rico may offer an expedited route to certification based on these credentials.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Must hold advanced degrees or national certifications and meet any additional state requirements.

### Final Notes

The specific requirements and availability of alternative certification routes in Puerto Rico can vary. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, contact the Puerto Rico Department of Education (PRDOE) directly or visit their website. They can provide detailed guidance on eligibility, program components, and the application process for alternative routes to teacher certification.

### Sources

OpenAI CHAT/GPT

National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification – NASDTEC

Puerto Rico Department of Education: <https://de.pr.gov/>

# US VIRGIN ISLANDS

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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**To obtain an initial teacher license in the U.S. Virgin Islands, you generally need to meet the following requirements:**

### 1. Educational Requirements:

- **Bachelor's Degree:** You must have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. The degree should typically be in education or a subject area relevant to the level or content you wish to teach.
- **Teacher Preparation Program:** Completion of an approved teacher preparation program is usually required. This program often includes both coursework and student teaching experience.

### 2. Certification Examinations:

- **Praxis Examinations:** You may be required to pass the Praxis series of exams, which assess both general and subject-specific teaching skills. Typically, these include:
  - **Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators:** Tests reading, writing, and mathematics skills.
  - **Praxis Subject Assessments:** Focus on the specific subject area you intend to teach.

### 3. Background Check:

- **Criminal Background Check:** You must undergo and pass a criminal background check, which usually includes fingerprinting.

### 4. Application Process:

- **Application Submission:** Submit an application for the initial teaching license to the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Education.
- **Documentation:** Provide all required documents, including transcripts, test scores, proof of completing a teacher preparation program, and any other relevant certifications.

### 5. Additional Requirements:

- **Residency or Citizenship:** You may need to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- **Professional Development:** Some states require initial licensure candidates to complete specific professional development courses or training.

# US VIRGIN ISLANDS

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### 6. Fees:

- **Application Fee:** There is usually an application fee that must be paid when submitting your application.

### 7. Provisional or Temporary License:

- In some cases, a provisional or temporary license may be granted while you complete certain requirements, such as additional coursework or exams.

It's important to check with the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Education for the most current and specific requirements, as they can change.

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**The U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) does have processes in place for recognizing out-of-state teaching licenses, including those from Mississippi. However, the process isn't automatic, and there may be additional requirements. Here's an overview:**

#### 1. Reciprocity:

- The USVI may recognize a valid Mississippi teaching license through reciprocity agreements. However, you must still apply for a teaching license in the USVI and meet certain criteria.

#### 2. Application for Licensure:

- **Submit an Application:** You will need to submit an application for a teaching license to the USVI Department of Education. This application will include your Mississippi teaching license as part of your supporting documents.
- **Application Fee:** Be prepared to pay an application fee.

#### 3. Verification of Credentials:

- **Official Transcripts:** You'll likely need to provide official transcripts showing that you have completed the necessary educational requirements.
- **Verification of Teaching Experience:** Documentation of your teaching experience in Mississippi might be required.
- **Mississippi License:** You will need to submit proof of your current Mississippi teaching license.

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### 4. Praxis Exams:

- If you have already passed the required Praxis exams for Mississippi, these scores may be accepted by the USVI. However, if your Mississippi license was obtained without passing Praxis exams or if the USVI requires different or additional exams, you may need to take those specific exams.

### 5. Background Check:

- **Criminal Background Check:** A new criminal background check, including fingerprinting, will likely be required even if you have had one in Mississippi.

### 6. Additional Requirements:

- **Local Professional Development:** The USVI may require you to complete certain local professional development courses or training specific to their education standards.
- **Cultural Competency Training:** There may be a requirement for training that includes understanding the unique cultural and educational context of the USVI.

### 7. Temporary or Provisional License:

- You may be issued a temporary or provisional license while you complete any additional requirements.

### 8. Teaching License Conversion:

- Once all requirements are met, your Mississippi license can be fully recognized, and you can receive a full teaching license in the USVI.

**Important:** It's recommended to directly contact the USVI Department of Education or visit their official website to get the most accurate and updated information, as requirements and processes may change.

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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The U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) does offer an alternative route to teacher certification for individuals who have not completed a traditional teacher preparation program but wish to become certified teachers. This route is typically designed for those who hold a bachelor's degree in a field other than education and are interested in transitioning into teaching.

### Key Features of the Alternative Route to Teacher Certification in USVI:

1. **Eligibility Requirements:**
  - **Bachelor's Degree:** You must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. The degree can be in any subject area, though preference is often given to those in high-need fields like math, science, or special education.
  - **Subject Area Knowledge:** You should have significant coursework or knowledge in the subject area you wish to teach.
2. **Temporary or Provisional License:**
  - You may be granted a temporary or provisional teaching license, allowing you to begin teaching while completing the requirements for full certification. This license typically has a limited validity period.
3. **Professional Development and Coursework:**
  - **Pedagogical Training:** While teaching, you will likely be required to complete coursework in pedagogy and classroom management. This can be done through local universities, online programs, or other approved educational providers.
  - **Mentorship:** You may be assigned a mentor or be required to participate in a mentorship program to provide guidance and support during your initial teaching experience.
4. **Examination Requirements:**
  - **Praxis Exams:** You will generally need to pass the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators exam and a Praxis Subject Assessment relevant to your teaching area.
5. **Teaching Experience:**
  - **Supervised Teaching:** You may be required to complete a period of supervised teaching, where your performance is evaluated to ensure you are meeting the standards required for full certification.
6. **Full Certification:**
  - After successfully completing the required coursework, passing all necessary exams, and fulfilling any teaching experience requirements, you can apply for full certification in the USVI.
7. **Ongoing Professional Development:**
  - Even after full certification, you may need to participate in ongoing professional development to maintain your teaching license.



# US VIRGIN ISLANDS

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

8.2024

✓ Belhaven University **DOES MEET** Licensure Requirements

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### Contact Information:

To get detailed information on the alternative route program, it's advisable to contact the USVI Department of Education directly. They can provide guidance on the specific steps, approved programs, and any recent changes to the certification process.

### Sources

OpenAI CHAT/GPT

National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification – NASDTEC

The Virgin Islands Department of Education: <https://vide.vi/>